

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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DEPT. ALSO PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY
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E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS:EFIS, ETRD, MTN, JA, AS, NZ
SUBJECT:NEW ZEALAND-JAPAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT.

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 4254, (B) MANILA 13829, (C) TOKYO 13004,
(D) WELLINGTON 3607, (E) TOKYO 3621

1. SUMMARY: GNZ AND GOJ INITIALED FISHERIES AGREEMENT
AUGUST 18. HOWEVER, QUESTIONS OF ACCESS TO JAPANESE
MARKET FOR NEW ZEALAND AND CATCH QUOTAS FOR JAPAN REMAIN
OPEN. ALTHOUGH GOJ WILL NOT PUBLICLY REFUTE MULDOON'S
CLAIM TO A LINKAGE BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCT SALES TO JAPAN AND FISHING AGREEMENT, GOJ IS
ADAMANT NO SUCH LINK EXISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TOLD EMBOFF JAPAN AND
NEW ZEALAND REACHED A CONSENSUS ON THE TEXT OF A FISHERIES
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AGREEMENT AND OFFICIALLY EXCHANGED INITIALS AUGUST 18.
THEY HOPE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT FORMALLY IN ABOUT THREE
WEEKS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIALS DECLINED TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF
THE AGREEMENT, THEY MADE CLEAR THAT JAPAN HAS STEADFASTLY
REFUSED TO LET GOZ LINK ITS CONCLUSION WITH

GUARANTEED AGRICULTURAL AND DAIRY PURCHASES BY JAPAN. MULDOON, THEY SAID, ANNOUNCED ON TV THAT THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN INITIALED AND IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS SUCH A LINK. THE GOJ WILL NOT PUBLICLY REFUTE HIS CLAIM, THEY INDICATED, BUT NEITHER WILL IT GO BEYOND THE VAGUE STATEMENT AGREED TO BY AGRICULTURAL MINISTER NAKAGAWA THAT "NEW ZEALAND IS (JAPAN'S) MOST IMPORTANT AND MOST RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF DAIRY PRODUCTS."

4. WHEN PRESSED, THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT LEAVES OPEN FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS THE GNZ REQUEST FOR OPEN MARKETS IN JAPAN FOR NEW ZEALAND FISH PRODUCTS. IT ALSO LEAVES THE QUESTION OF CATCH QUOTAS FOR JAPANESE FISHERMEN ENTIRELY IN THE HANDS OF GNZ. THEY SAID THEY ARE SURE CATCH QUOTAS WILL BE TIED IN SOME WAY TO JAPANESE PURCHASES OF NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTS. OTHERWISE, THEY INDICATED, THE AGREEMENT WAS QUITE SIMILAR TO THE CANADIAN-JAPAN AGREEMENT.

5. AUGUST 19 PRESS REPORTS SAID THE AGREEMENT WILL BE THE COSTLIEST AMONG THE FISHING AGREEMENTS JAPAN HAS CONCLUDED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. CATCH QUOTAS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE AND THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS FOR POOR HAULS. ALSO, REPORTS SAID, THERE WILL BE STRICT CONTROLS ON FISHING OPERATIONS. BOATS (EXCEPT TUNA) WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER NEW ZEALAND PORTS BEFORE AND AFTER OPERATIONS, SO THAT

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CATCHES CAN BE MONITORED, AND TO REPORT THEIR LOCATIONS DAILY. THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE SQUID AND TUNA BOATS WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED TO REPORT ONCE A WEEK.

6. EMBOFF ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT MINISTER USHIBA'S VISITS IN EARLY AUGUST. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS VERIFIED, BUT WERE UNABLE TO ADD TO EXCELLENT REPORTING CONTAINED REFTELS A AND B. THEY ADMITTED THAT USHIBA'S COMMENTS AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW ZEALAND GAVE THEM A FEW BAD MOMENTS. THEY BLAMED THEMSELVES, HOWEVER, AND SAID THE PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING THEY HAD GIVEN USHIBA WAS CANDID AND CURSORY AND DID NOT ADDRESS NEW ZEALAND POLITICAL SCENE. CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN USHIBA ANSWERED PRESS QUESTIONS, HE WAS EMBARRASSINGLY FRANK. THIS, THEY ADMITTED, "PROBABLY CAUSED PRIME MINISTER MULDOON TO LOSE SOME FACE."

7. COMMENTS: WITH THE QUESTION OF CATCH QUOTAS OPEN, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GAME IS IN NEW ZEALAND'S FAVOR. HOWEVER, FOR MONTHS, JAPAN HAS REFUSED TO MOVE FROM ITS BASIC POSITION ON MARKET ACCESS FOR NEW ZEALAND AGRICULTURAL AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. THERE IS NO INDICATION

THAT JAPAN VALUES THE RIGHT TO FISH IN NEW ZEALAND'S
WATERS ANY MORE NOW THAN IT DID IN FEBRUARY (REFTEL E).
MANSFIELD

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NNN

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